

MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Sandra R. Robinson, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
Debra McKnight, Assistant City Clerk

ABSENT: Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7
John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Mayor Gore | - | present |
| Vice Mayor Bennett | - | absent |
| Councilor Randolph | - | present |
| Councilor Partin | - | present |
| Councilor Holloway | - | present |
| Councilor Denton | - | present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | present |

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:34 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to go into closed meeting for pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including the assignment, and performance of specific City Council appointees, to-wit: the city manager, city clerk, city attorney, as well as to consider and evaluate applications and conduct interviews for appointment to the CPMT, Economic Development Authority, and Crater District Area Agency on Aging; and to the extent such discussion and consideration is aided thereby (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business. Councilor Pelham seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:45 p.m. Council returned to the dais and responded to the question pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (D): were only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting? Upon the roll call, the responses resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore requested a roll call as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Mayor Gore | - | present |
| Councilor Randolph | - | present |
| Councilor Partin | - | present |
| Councilor Holloway | - | present |
| Councilor Denton | - | present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | present |

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Partin moved to adopt the agenda. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

REGULAR MEETING

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Gore called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Deidre Bryant of John Randolph Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Mayor Gore.

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

Mayor Gore noted that there was a special guest in the audience and requested that Councilor Randolph introduce the persons. Councilor Randolph introduced Ariana and stated that she was collecting for JV and Varsity cheerleaders by selling donuts, so she committed all of council to purchase donuts from her. All of council honored the commitment and filled out Ariana's form to either purchase donuts or give a donation.

Mayor Gore then introduced Sandra Robinson, the new City Attorney. She asked Mrs. Robinson to say a few words, which she did.

Mayor Gore introduced Dr. Concetta Manker, Director of IT, and asked that she speak about the updates to the dais. Dr. Manker explained about the addition of monitors before each councilors' seat, as well as a laptop on the lectern to allow presenters to control their presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by Council and will be approved or received by one motion in the form listed. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion under the regular agenda at the request of any Councilor.

C-1 Minutes: May 7, 2019, May 14, 2019, and June 6, 2019.

C-2 Pending List:

1. See Attached
2. Additional pending list - see attached
3. Third pending list - see attached

C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions:

C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report: Personnel Change Report

C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:

C-6 Routine Grant Approval:

C-7 Public Hearing Announcement: Aug. 20, 2019 - Conditional Use Permit for 710 W City Point Rd

C-8 Information for Council Review: Minutes - Crater District Area Agency on Aging - Feb. 28, 2019

C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:

C-10 Additional Announcements: Tri-Cities Multimodal Train Station Update (presented by Johnny Butler); I Love Hopewell History Mystery Tour (presented by Stacy English, Charles Dane and Concetta Manker)

Councilor Pelham moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Public Hearing for properties on Spot Blight list 2019-#1

ISSUE: In accordance with the Hopewell City Code, Chapter 19, Article VI, Spot Blight, the City Manager has recommended nine properties that qualify for demolition, rehabilitation, and/or acquisition through the Spot Blight Ordinance.

Tevya Griffin, Director of Development, presented Council with the list of blighted properties, defined “blighted,” and explained the spot blight scoring system. Mayor Gore opened the public hearing at 8:23 p.m.

Mr. Dwight Leath, owner of 3103 Poplar St spoke, requesting an extension and stating his intent to improve the property.

Shirley Leath apologized for state of property, and explained that they were out of state, and that due to the illness and subsequent death of her husband, the property got away from her.

Jennifer Jarrett, daughter of property owner spoke about the properties at 135 and 137 S 13th Ave. She said she was working on locating a buyer for the property, and requested an extension.

Dianne Noehl stated that she had been a resident of 13th Ave for 34 years. She expressed concern over the safety of 135 and 137 S 13th, and stated they had not been touched for 7-8 years. Noted that the properties had tall grass, snakes, and mice, which were coming over into other properties.

Anna Townsend spoke said she lived at 126 S 13th Ave, and the properties at 135 and 137 S 13th had not been taken care of for years. She also noted that the back of one of the properties had been damaged in a fire and not repaired. She spoke of concerns that the properties were dangerous.

Rannette Jones spoke about 1503 Atlantic. She stated that she was the daughter of the owner, Raymond Wyatt, who fell off of a roof and injured his hip. She said since then she has been involved with the property and has been making repairs. She showed pics of the repairs. She requested an extension to continue repairing the property.

Bharat Shah, owner of 4100 Oaklawn Blvd, spoke about his property. He said he is working on redeveloping the property, and had met with several developers. He requested an extension. He also noted that the property was part of a legal action and to demolish it would destroy evidence.

Imtiaz Kapadia, owner of the 801 Winston Churchill property came forward with is attorney, Brian Haynes. He said he did not understand the basis for his property being blighted and said he had not been given a reason for the designation. He also said he had received no notice. He said he would be happy to submit an abatement plan if he were given the opportunity.

Kai Pau (spelling) also spoke about the properties at 135 and 137 S. 13th Ave. She said the properties were infested with rats and roaches, and expressed concern that the vermin would spread to her property. She also mentioned issues with traffic.

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

Mrs. Leath spoke again and read a letter from the person intending to purchase her property.

Ms. Noehl also spoke again. She said that the property owners had kicked out a tenant who was a potential buyer, and that she feared there were now homeless people living in the property. She asked that the properties (135 and 137 S 13th) be demolished.

Mr. Leath spoke again and said they kicked out a tenant due to non-payment, and another due to drugs.

Kai Pau (spelling) spoke again and expressed concern that if the City demolished the properties, how would they ensure the vermin didn't spread to other properties.

Mayor Gore closed the public hearing at 8:54 p.m. Council discussed the spot blight requests.

Councilor Pelham moved to postpone the decision until the August 20, 2019 meeting. Her motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilor Partin moved to demolish 801 Winston Churchill Drive. His motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilor Randolph moved to allow Code Enforcement and the Building Official to meet with the owner of 801 Winston Churchill Drive and the City Attorney, and to come back to Council on August 20, 2019. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | no |

Motion passed 5-1

Councilor Randolph moved to move forward with the demolition of the building at 2308 Lee Street. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

Councilor Randolph moved to go forward with the demolition of the building at 3505 Sussex. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Partin moved to demolish the building on the property at 108 N. 3rd Ave. His motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Partin moved to demolish the building at 135 S. 13th Ave. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Pelham moved to not demolish the building at 137 S. 13th Ave. Her motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilor Partin moved to demolish the building at 137 S. 13th Ave. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

For the building at 1503 Atlantic St., Councilor Randolph moved to wait 30 days before making a decision, and need to ensure structural aspect is taken care of and need commitment at August 20, 2019 meeting, from daughter that structure will be improved, and approved by Code Enforcement as sound within three (3) months. Her motion was approved by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | no |

Motion passed 5-1

Councilor Partin moved to demolish the buildings at 4100 Oaklawn Blvd. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton.

After discussion, Councilor Pelham made a substitute motion to not demolish the buildings at 4100 Oaklawn Blvd, but to require the owner to board the building such that no one could enter in any way. Council was asked if it would accept this substitute motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | no |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | no |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | no |

Motion failed 3-3

Councilor Randolph made a substitute motion to within 30 days, Mr. Shah, owner of the property, work with Code Enforcement to get building boarded up and cleaned up, and do a partial demolition, and come back to Council on August 20, 2019. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | no |

Motion passed 5-1

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

Councilor Pelham moved to waive Council rules and extend the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. to allow PH-2 and PH-3 to be heard. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

PH-2 Hold a public hearing to consider citizen comments regarding the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2019-2020 Budget

ISSUE: The City of Hopewell has been notified that it will receive \$190,398 in CDBG funding for the FY 2018-2019. City Staff has reviewed all applications for funding submitted by various agencies and have developed a proposed CDBG budget for City Council's consideration. City Administration provided City Council with three priorities for the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. They are housing /homelessness, early childhood development, and elder care. Funding recommendations for the upcoming year are based on these goals. The 19-20 Annual Action Plan describes the projects that will be funded in the fourth year of the Consolidated Plan.

Bill Dore, CDBG Coordinator and Tevya Griffin presented to Council and fielded questions. Mayor Gore opened the public hearing at 10:40 p.m.

Mike Streitel and Kathryn Thompson spoke about STORY and its needs for funding and how any cut to the proposed funding would hurt the program.

Mayor Gore closed the public hearing at 10:46 p.m. Council discussed the proposed funding, and changes to same made by Councilor Pelham as a member of the CDBG.

Councilor Partin moved to postpone any decision until the July 23, 2019 Special Meeting. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

PH-3 Public Hearing for an Additional Appropriation to the FY 2019-2020 Schools Budget

ISSUE: Recent Audits required the Schools to return surplus funds from prior fiscal years within the School Operating Budget as well as the Schools Building and Bus Replacement Fund. The public hearing tonight as well as the recommended action from the City Manager is to appropriate a portion of the funds to the Schools FY 2019-2020 Budget to fully fund their budget request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Such action, as it is a budget appropriation, requires a Public Hearing before City Council can take action on this request from schools and recommendation from the City Manager.

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager, presented information to Council. Councilor Pelham noted that she was an employee of the Hopewell School system, but that she was able to participate in this transaction. Mayor Gore opened the public hearing at 10:55 p.m.

No one signed up to speak for this item, and no one came forward to speak.

Mayor Gore closed the public hearing at 10:55 p.m.

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement for this item stating that she was an employee of the Hopewell Schools System, but that she was able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Councilor Partin moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate a total of \$5,155,904 in Surplus Funds from FY2015-2015 Unexpended Funds to the Schools FY 2019-2020 Budget, the total inclusive of \$2,252,545 into the School Operating Fund and \$2,903,359 to the School Building and School Bus Replacement Fund. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Councilor Pelham | - | yes |
| Councilor Randolph | - | yes |
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Partin | - | yes |

Motion passed 6-0

Prior to adjournment, Councilor Pelham agreed to hear item R-1, Modification of Existing Construction Contract at the July 23, 2019 Special Meeting.

ADJOURN

Councilor Denton moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. All answered in favor.

/s/ Jasmine E. Gore
Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

DRAFT
July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

/s/ Ronnieye L. Arrington
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

DRAFT